

NOTES ON SOME BIRDS FROM THE INTERIOR OF HONDURAS.

BY

ROBERT RIDGWAY,

Curator of the Department of Birds.

A collection of nearly two hundred specimens (representing eighty-five species), obtained in the interior of Honduras by Mr. Erich Wittkugel, and purchased by the U. S. National Museum, contains the following birds of special interest:

1. *Platypsaris aglaiaë hypophæus*, subsp. nov.

SUBSP. CHAR: Similar to *P. a. latirostris* (Bonap.), but male darker above (the back grayish black, very little different from the head), the gray of under parts deeper and much more uniform, without the slightest indication of paling on the throat or chest, and white on inner webs of remiges much more restricted (none at all on first primary); the female also darker than that of *P. a. latirostris* (deep tawny-buff, instead of pale cream-buff, beneath).

HABITAT: Interior of Honduras (San Pedro Sula).

Adult male (type, No. 120293, U. S. Nat. Mus., San Pedro Sula, Honduras, October 4, 1890; Erich Wittkugel): Pileum deep black, slightly glossed with greenish, the feathers grayish beneath the surface, the forehead dull smoky black; hind neck glossy grayish black, fading into dull blackish slate on the back, the rest of the upper surface being deep slate-gray; concealed portion of scapulars largely pure white, partially exposed when feathers are disarranged. Lower parts entirely uniform gray (intermediate between the gray No. 6 and the olive-gray of my *Nomenclature of Colors*). Outer primary without any white at base of inner web. Upper mandible black, lower plumbeous-dusky; feet plumbeous-dusky. Length (skin), 6.30; wing, 3.45; tail, 2.60; exposed culmen, 0.65; tarsus, 0.80; middle toe, 0.48.

Another adult male (No. 120294, same locality and collector, January 2, 1891,) is similar to the one described except that it is still darker, both above and below, the entire back being quite black (though less glossy than the top of the head), while the sides of the head and neck also are nearly black. Its measurements are as follows: Length (skin), 6.25; wing, 3.50; tail, 2.57; exposed culmen, 0.67; tarsus, 0.82; middle toe, 0.50.

Young male, transition plumage (No. 120295, Santa Ana, Honduras, November 6, 1890; Erich Wittkugel): Similar to the adult male, as described above, but outer surface of closed wings chiefly bright rusty chestnut under wing-coverts tawny-ochraceous, inner web of remiges broadly edged with ochraceous-buff (occupying entire web of secondaries, except at tips), and gray of under parts, especially posterior to the breast, much intermixed and stained with pale buffy. Under mandible light colored. Length (skin), 6.25; wing, 3.45; tail, 2.45; exposed culmen, 0.62; tarsus, 0.80; middle toe, 0.45.

Young male—first year? (No. 120296, U. S. Nat. Mus., San Pedro Sula, Honduras, January 28, 1891; Erich Wittkugel): Pileum and hind neck black, becoming dull grayish dusky on forehead; back and scapulars, grayish olive, mixed or stained with dull rusty brownish, some of the feathers having dusky shafts; rump and upper tail-coverts dull rusty cinnamon, slightly tinged with olive; rectrices clear tawny cinnamon-rufous, some of them darker or browner, others with dusky longitudinal blotches; wings chiefly cinnamon-rusty; their under coverts, clear ochraceous-buff. Under parts mixed olive-grayish and buff, the former prevailing on sides of breast. Under mandible brownish white. Length (skin), 6.30; wing, 3.35; tail, 2.55; exposed culmen, 0.65; tarsus, 0.78; middle toe, 0.50.

Adult female (No. 120298, U. S. Nat. Mus., San Pedro Sula, Honduras, November 29, 1890; Erich Wittkugel): Pileum smoky grayish black, fading on forehead into dull grayish brown ("hair brown"); rest of upper parts dull cinnamon-chestnut, brighter (almost cinnamon-rufous) on greater wing-coverts, secondaries and tail, as well as around neck. Lores light grayish; malar region, deep buff or clay color, gradually becoming deeper and more rusty posteriorly until it merges into the bright cinnamon-rusty of sides of neck. Chin, pale buff; rest of under parts deep tawny-buff or clay-color, the under wing-coverts ochraceous-buff. Under mandible, dusky grayish (plumbeous in life?). Length (skin), 6.40; wing, 3.25; tail, 2.40; exposed culmen, 0.65; tarsus, 0.80; middle toe, 0.50.

I think there can be no question as to the distinctness of this bird from *P. a. latirostris*, of which the National Museum possesses two adult males and an adult female, from Ometepe, Nicaragua, collected by Mr. C. C. Nutting. The male of *P. latirostris* is much paler throughout, having the distinctly gray back sharply defined against the black cap, and the white on the inner webs of the primaries very much more extended, there being a considerable white space on the basal portion of the first quill, of which there is no trace in the two adult males of *P. a. hypophæus*. The short second primary is likewise considerably narrower than in *P. a. latirostris*.

The adult female is very much darker than that of *P. a. latirostris*, and has also a decidedly shorter wing and tail, but agrees so minutely in coloration with the female of the Guatemalan form of *P. aglaia*, that

I am unable to detect any difference. In fact, the male also is very similar, except that the Guatemalan bird has a more or less distinct indication of a whitish or rosy patch on the lower part of the throat. It is this intermediate character of the Guatemalan bird that induces me to choose a trinomial rather than a binomial appellation for the form under consideration.

Whether the Nicaraguan type, *P. latirostris* (Bonap.), should also be referred to the same species as a local race remains to be proven; but I am inclined to believe that such disposition of it will eventually have to be made. The case of the Costa Rican form is scarcely more doubtful; but *P. homochrous* (Scl.), of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru seems to be specifically distinct, the female always (?) having a rufous instead of gray or blackish cap. Such an arrangement of these puzzling forms would extend the range of *P. aglaia* from northern Mexico (and contiguous portions of Arizona) to Costa Rica, but would provide for the recognition of the following geographical or local races:

(1) *P. aglaia* (Lafr.). Eastern Mexico. (*P. affinis* Elliot seems unquestionably to be a pure synonym of this name.)

(2) *P. aglaia albiventris* (Lawr.) Western Mexico. (I have previously referred Yucatan specimens to this form, but I now am inclined to consider those that I have seen from that country as representing a worn and bleached plumage of *aglaia*.)

(3) *P. aglaia insularis* Ridgway. Tres Marias Islands.

(4) *P. aglaia hypophæus* Ridgw. Honduras. (Grading into *aglaia* through specimens from Guatemala and southern Mexico.)

(5) *P. aglaia latirostris* (Bonap.). Nicaragua.

(6) *P. aglaia obscurus* Ridgw.* Costa Rica.

2. *Pithys bicolor olivascens*, subsp. nov.

SUBSP. CHAR.: Similar to *P. bicolor* Lawr., but much more olivaceous, particularly on the sides, where the feathers adjoining the white of the breast and belly are conspicuously margined with white, producing a scaled appearance.

Type No. 120197, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., Santa Ana, Honduras, November 20, 1890; Erich Wittkugel.

The true *P. bicolor* occupies an intermediate position between this form and *P. leucospis* Scl., of northern South America, the three being doubtless geographical races of a single species.

3. *Gymnocichla chiroleuca* Scl. & Salv.

Since neither the female nor young male of this very distinct species appear to have been described, I give descriptions herewith:

Adult female (No. 120195, U. S. National Museum Santa Ana, Honduras, November 20, 1890; Erich Wittkugel): Top of head and hind

* See these proceedings, page 474.

neck mummy brown; back, scapulars, and rump olive, tinged with slate-color, the upper tail-coverts inclining to raw umber; outer webs of tail-feathers plain bistre, inner webs more dusky brown; lesser wing-coverts and margin of wing deep tawny; greater coverts bistre brown, passing into black subterminally, their tips rather broadly and sharply tawny; outer surface of secondaries warm brown (between bistre and vandyke), the outer webs of primaries brighter or more russet. Lores and whole of the orbits naked, the naked space extending almost to the occiput, with the posterior extremity pointed. All the feathering below this naked space, as well as along the posterior half of its upper margin, together with chest, deep tawny, the remaining lower parts similar but paler, changing on sides to olive, and on under tail-coverts to mixed olive and tawny. Bill dusky (bluish in life?); legs and feet grayish dusky (bluish in life?), the claws light horn gray. Length (skin), 6.25; wing, 3.00; tail, 2.25; culmen, 0.83; bill from nostril, 0.50; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, 0.78.

Young male (No. 120194, same locality, date, etc.): Similar to the adult female, but top of head and hind neck rather duller brown, the middle and greater wing coverts without trace of tawny, and the tawny which covers solidly the exposed surface of the lesser coverts lighter in color. Length (skin), 6.10; wing, 2.90; tail, 2.40; culmen, 0.90; bill from nostril, 0.49; tarsus, 1.15; middle toe, 0.75.

4. *Grallaria guatemalensis* Prévost ?

A young male (supposed to be this species) is very different from the adult, as shown by the following description:

Young (No. 120198, U. S. National Museum, Santa Ana, Honduras, October 24, 1890; Erich Wittkugel): Top of head and hind neck dark slate-color, each feather marked near end with a tear-shaped streak of pale buff—the slate-color considerably darker, or approaching black, immediately about these markings; throat, chest, and breast similarly colored and marked, but slate-color rather lighter and buffy streaks longer, extending along the shafts of the feathers nearly to their base; lower breast marked with large, somewhat pandurate, spots of buff. Rest of plumage as in the adult (except wing-coverts more distinctly spotted), the feathers having been molted and those of the adult dress assumed.

On account of lacking specimens of the latter and authentic specimens of the young of the former, I am unable to determine whether this specimen should be referred to *G. guatemalensis* or to *G. princeps* Sel. and Salv., the form which replaces it in Costa Rica and Veragua.

The following species may be mentioned on account of the locality:

(1) *Spinus notatus* (Du Bus). Six specimens, Santa Ana, December 23, 1890.

(2) *Dives dives* (Bonap.). Guaruma, January 23, 1891.

(3) *Myiobius erythrurus* Cab. Santa Ana, December 22, 1890, and San Pedro Sula, January 30, 1891.

(4) *Thamnophilus melanocrissus* Sel. San Pedro Sula: five specimens, August, September, and December.

(5) *Sclerurus guatemalensis* Hartl. Four specimens; Santa Ana, November 6 and 20, and La Puerte, November 12.

(6) *Sclerurus mexicanus* Sel. Volcan de Pucá, April 8.

(7) *Automolus pallidigularis* Lawr. Santa Ana, October 15.

(8) *Phaechroa roberti* Salvin. San Pedro Sula, January 31; Santa Ana, October 16.

(9) *Uranomitra cyanocephala* (Less.). San Pedro Sula, November 28.

(10) *Hylomanes momotula* Licht. Santa Ana, October 9; two specimens.

(11) *Ceryle superciliosa stictoptera* Ridgw. Locality not specified, December 2.

(12) *Aulacorhamphus prasinus* (Gould). Chasnignas, January 2.

(13) *Scardafella inca* (Less.). Chamelicon, December 2-26.